



May 2005

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The Yellow Kid's Revolution

by *Brian Witt*

In February 1895, history was made with the reprint of a cartoon from Truth Magazine entitled "Fourth Ward Brownies" in the New York World. Little did anyone know that an odd looking character in a nightshirt on the periphery of the panel would be a catalyst for change for both comic strips and journalism. The panel was "Down In Hogan's Alley," and the character Mickey Dugan was to become known as the "Yellow Kid."

The evolution of the Yellow Kid from bit-role player to center stage character was more an accident than anything else. Colored inks in newspapers had been developed and had been proven for fastness and non-smudging – all but yellow ink. Joseph Pulitzer had bought a four-color rotary press for the World, and intended to present the world's great works of arts. However, when that failed, drawings were the main instrument for the experimentation of inks. A pressman decided to see if new tallow-yellow ink was smudge-proof, and used it on the Kid's nightshirt. The vibrancy of the color attracted readers to the cartoon, and soon the newly dubbed "Yellow Kid" became a hit.

The artist, Richard Fenton Outcault, was to use various locales for his cartoon, such at Casey's Alley, Coney Island and Riley's Pond. Hogan's Alley, with its re--cur-ring cast of characters, theme of life in the slums, and the written word integrated into the graphic panel would provide the first continuing series in the cartoon world.

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The world of Hogan's Alley was well known to its New York readers. Historian Ian Gordon stated that the name for Outcault's first Yellow Kid series, "Hogan's Alley," has its origins in vaudeville. Hogan was a common name used on Broadway at the time. Tony Pastor's vaudeville revue in 1891 featured the song "When Hogan Pays the Rent". The ties to Edward Harrigan and David Braham's Irish-themed play, O'Reilly and the Four Hundred, featured a song called "Maggie Murphy's Home," that begins with the line "Down in Hogan's Alley..." Outcault first used the phrase "Hogan's Alley" in the cartoon "Feudal Pride in Hogan's Alley," which appeared in the June 2, 1894, issue of Truth, a humor magazine of the 1890s.

The drawings and commentary were in the manner of the plays of Edward Harrigan and Tony Hart, staples of New York theater for many years. They featured political and social remarks, and showed life in an Irish-American community with comic overtones. The commentary was also in line with that of Finley Peter Dunne, the creator of the Chicago bar owner, Martin Dooley. Dooley's commentaries on the lives of the folks in Bridgeport would find their way into the newspapers of America, much to the chagrin of local politicians who were thinly disguised in their presentation.

Written in the vernacular of New York Irish slum dwellers, Hogan's Alley would touch on daily life, as well as things as far off as political conventions and the silver standard. Why Irish? It was because there was an immediate identifier with the characters, after the years of the Harrigan and Hart characterizations of the Irish on stage.

So popular was the Yellow Kid that he was soon to become a marketing superstar. His image was selling buttons, cigarettes, and, in a somewhat ironic turn of events, a character in a vaudeville play. And his popularity would soon lead to a bidding war between William Randolph Hearst and Pulitzer. Hearst had purchased the New York Morning Journal from Albert Pulitzer, Joseph's brother, and soon was raiding the staff of the World. This included Outcault and the Yellow Kid. For a period of time Outcault was working at one newspaper or the other, depending on the latest bid. Finally Pulitzer gave up on Outcault, but kept the Yellow Kid, to which he had a legal right. Pulitzer hired George Luks, later to become one of the best known easel artists in America, to draw the World's version of Mickey Dugan. But Outcault was still drawing the Kid for the Journal, now in McFadden Flats, so there were two Kids to choose from.

The entire process led to both newspapers bribing artists and writers to switch sides. At one point Hearst had pirated the entire Sunday supplement staff from the World. A series of lawsuits and injunctions were issued, and the entire process led to a new phrase in the vernacular: “yellow journalism.” The phrase came to symbolize the unscrupulous practices of the sensational press. But for all the back and forth of Pulitzer and Hearst, not one case went to court. The action was all being driven in the pages of the newspapers

By 1898, the Yellow Kid was no more. Replacing the comics war was a push for a real war. The two publishers helped create American outrage to support armed intervention against Spain over treatment of Cuban rebels. By the time the USS Maine exploded in Havana Harbor, the pro-war press had roused national sentiment to the point where President William McKinley feared his political party would suffer if he did not engage in a conflict with Spain. The resultant Spanish-American War added to the newspapers’ circulation numbers, and to American territory.

As for R. F. Outcault, he would continue to create a number of comics. Lil Mose, Buddy Tucker and his most famous, Buster Brown, who was almost the anti-Kid in his presentation. Whereas the Kid was bald and slovenly, Buster had curly tresses and a compulsion to stay clean at all costs. He was accompanied by his dog, Tige, and closed all his strips with a moral about what was right and wrong. Of course, moralizing notwithstanding, Buster would go on to sell cigarettes, whiskey, shoes, and whatever else he could shill.

Although Mickey Dugan and friends were never read outside of New York, the revolution they wrought was to be felt worldwide.

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Lafayette County Shamrock Club

Week of fun enjoyed by Shamrock Club

The 2005 Irishman Jason Donahoe and his Irish Rose, his fiancée Tiffany Rouse, were busy in March as they led the festivities for the Lafayette County Shamrock Club.

Collectively club members for 11 years, Donahoe is currently the vice president of the club and Rouse serves as secretary.

The couple resides in Platteville with Donahoe's 5-year-old son, Dillon. They will marry in April. Donahoe, a 1992 graduate of Darlington High School, is a tooling technician at Fleetguard Nelson, Mineral Point, while Rouse, a 1994 graduate of Platteville High School, works as a customer service representative at Blue Cross Blue Shield, Platteville.

Donahoe and Rouse headlined the St. Patrick's Parade Saturday, March 12 in Darlington. Club members met behind Casey's prior to the parade. The parade route made its way up Main Street where the Irish flag was raised at the Lafayette County Courthouse.

A mass and liturgy took place Sunday, March 13 at Holy Rosary Catholic Church at 10:30 a.m. A brunch at the Darlington Country Club followed. The club participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Monroe on Thursday, March 17.

But it's not just in March that the Lafayette County Shamrock Club is busy celebrating their Irish heritage. The group sponsors three scholarships for high school seniors, we take part in the Tree of Life at Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County and the club co-sponsors a high school junior girl for a trip to the American Legion Girls State. Every few years the club sponsors a bus trip to Irish Fest in Milwaukee and Irish dancers and dance lessons are sponsored each year.

The club also takes part in multiple parades including Canoe Festival, Shullsburg Fourth of July, Gratiot Labor Day, Monroe Cheese Fest (every other year) and the Warren, Ill. Pumpkin Fest.

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New Dublin News

We have enjoyed another successful year for our Parade, Irish Fest and week-long events despite the unpredictable spring weather in Wisconsin. Mother Nature was not exactly on our side this year, but I am pleased to report some final results.

Attendance in the Irish Fest tent was only down about 200 people, and considering the weather, we were very fortunate. The Jaycees food and beverage sales were good and the crowd was orderly and appreciated the fine entertainment provided by Sheamus Fitzpatrick and the McNally Boys in the morning, and of course our featured group Seven Nations, who for those of you who aren't aware, drove fourteen hours

through the night Friday evening to get here. Of the 110 registered entries for the parade, we only lost 19 on parade day and God bless those brave souls who did make it out and helped to make our Parade and Irish Fest a successful event for our club. In fact, despite the weather, all of our events this year were very well received and attended.

The “Pot of Gold” raffle was brought back this year and was a smashing success thanks to coordinators Paula Schlicht and Colleen Bricco. Raffle winners included: \$1,000 Pam Kloehn, New London; \$500 Helen Johnson, Clintonville; \$100 Randy Gagnow, New London; \$100 David A. Johnson Shiocton (donated by Randy Gagnow); \$100 Wendy Magolski, New London; \$100 Colleen Kelly, New London; \$100 Greg Mathewson, New London and Dawn L. Smith, Shawano (donated by Save-On Furniture).

We still meet every first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. throughout the summer, with the exception of July, above Sommers Midtown in New London. Please plan to attend a meeting or two, and invite your friends to join you. It takes a great amount of energy and planning to support the many activities our club sponsors each March and your help is greatly appreciated.

– **Carrie Katerzynske**

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Dane County Shamrock Club

There will be a State Advisory Board meeting on Saturday, May 21, 2005, at R and R Kelly’s Irish Pub in Fitchburg. It will start at 12 Noon and conclude about 2 p.m. That is the weekend of Fitchburg Days which has an Irish/Celtic theme. It is held close to the restaurant so all could visit the event after lunch. There will be no Dane County meeting for May. There will be an Irish Buffet at the K of C Hall on June 14, 2005, at which time we will also elect our Board for 2005/2006. Look for further details.

For more information you can contact me at (608) 833-0009 or email me at ccimgmt@supranet.com.

– **Bob Kerans, President**

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Rock County

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 17 – Regular Membership Meeting 7 p.m.
- June – July – August no meetings
- August – Club picnic – details later

At our St. Patrick's Party on March 15, the attendance was limited to 100 people and they all enjoyed a fine dinner. After dinner we were entertained by "Casey's Fancy" and their Irish music. T'was a fine evening.

We hope all members will try to attend our May meeting as we have quite a bit of business to attend to at that meeting. We want to talk about scholarships, a report on our Boston Store activity and we want to select a program committee for the coming year. If you have any suggestions for our picnic, in August, bring them up at the May meeting.

May you all have a very enjoyable summer.

– Tom Kennedy

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South Central Shamrock Club Honors Irishman, Rose



Left to right: Jackie Sundquist Harris and Larry Drea

Jacquelynn (Jackie) Sundquist Harris Named Irish Rose

The South Central Shamrock Club of Wisconsin honored Jacquelynn (Jackie) Sundquist Harris as its Irish Rose of the Year at the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration at The

Voyageur Inn in Reedsburg on Saturday, March 12.

Harris was born in Marquette, Mich., the youngest of four children of Ivan and May (Tweedale) Sundquist.

Jackie's maternal grandmother was Eva McDonald Tweedale, daughter of Randall McDonald. In approximately 1850, Randall McDonald immigrated to Michigan from Ireland. The family records in Ireland have been difficult to trace due to a church fire. The McDonald family settled in Trenary, Mich., in the Upper Peninsula. Eva was born in 1882. Eva met and married James Matthew Tweedale whose family had immigrated from England. Jackie's parents moved to Bark River, Mich. when Jackie was four years old. Jackie attended a two-room school house until the fourth grade; then attended various country schools until graduating from the Bark River Harris High School. She then attended Manpower Business Training Institute in Milwaukee.

In June of 1967, she married David C. Harris and while David finished college, they lived in Milwaukee and Jackie worked as a keypunch operator at Cutler- Hammer. Upon receiving his engineering degree in 1968, David and Jackie moved to Freeport, Ill. where they resided until 1987. David and Jackie have two daughters, Wendi and Tricia. In the fall of 1987 the Harris family moved to Baraboo. David and Jackie have four grandchildren: Troy, Jesse, Erika and Kiersten Leatherberry.

While her daughters were growing up, Jackie was involved in their activities in school and also active in their church parish, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Freeport. She served as president of the Parent Teacher Organization, chaired various fundraisers for their elementary school, was room mother, volunteered in the classroom and chaperoned many field trips for their teachers. She was involved in Trida's 4-H club and spent many hours working with the club at the Stephenson County Fair each year. She was also active in the Stephenson County Homemakers, taught CCD at church, was involved in the RCIA program and sang in the church choir.

After moving to Baraboo, David and Jackie joined St. Joseph's Catholic Church where she is involved in various activities of the Council of Catholic Women.

Jackie drove several different people to Madison for cancer treatments. She has been a member of the South Central Shamrock Club for years and currently serves as membership chair.

Larry Drea named Irishman of the Year

The Shamrock Club of South Central Wisconsin also honored Larry Drea as Irishman of the Year at their annual St. Patrick's Day celebration. Larry is one of eight children of Michael T. Drea and Mary Mears. Larry is a descendant of William Drea, born in county Kilkenny in the year 1822 and Catherine Aspel, born in Wexford, Ireland on March 18, 1830. They came over together on the same boat from Ireland, and after the boat docked in New York City they were married in Auburn, NY on July 20, 1851, by Rev. Father O'Flaherty.

In 1859, they moved to Cleveland, Ohio and William started working in the Round house for R. Templey and in 1861 he became a boilermaker for the Ring Freeze Co. also in Cleveland. While at work he was seriously scalded and as a result of this accident, decided to take up farming. In 1863, William and Catherine moved to Melanethon Creek, town of Henrietta, Wis., where they purchased a farm.

The couple had 11 children; five of whom were born in Wisconsin, one of the 11 being Larry's father, Michael T. Drea.

On June 26, 1907, Michael T. Drea and Mary Mears were married in Loreto (St. Patrick's). They had eight children. Larry was number six in the clan and attended Hickory Grove School.

In 1935, Mike and Mary moved to Loreto Ridge where they farmed. In 1937, 12 years later, Mike started the present day Drea's Bar.

Larry took over the tavern in 1947, and 58 years later is still the sole proprietor. For 35 years he has been a member of the Sauk County Tavern League.

Larry is a former member of the Reedsburg Veterans of Foreign Wars and a current member of the Plain American Legion for the past 28 years. Larry and three of his brothers served in World War II. He earned the rank of staff sergeant in the Army and served his country from 1941-1945. During those years Larry served a tour of duty in the South Pacific.

Also in the Drea lineage, his grandfather served in the Civil War.

Larry is a faithful member of St. Patrick's Church in Loreto.

Milwaukee President's Message

May is one of those months we cherish with the longer days, and the beauty of flowers finally in bloom. If you remember the days of May processions and the crowning of Mary, you must cherish this memory of these special occasions. May contains the happy memories of Mother's Day, First Communions, graduations, and Memorial Day. Please remember the meaning of Memorial Day if only to say a prayer for those making the sacrifice in service to our country. We congratulate any member celebrating the May events.

This is an important month for the Shamrock Club with the elections being held, and board positions to be filled. I hope to encourage those of you that are interested in the election process to attend the meeting on May 5 to vote. The date, 5-5-05, is certainly easy to remember, and the Club can only succeed with your involvement. The Shamrock Club provides the city with an endless number of events, both fun and educational, and we need all of you to continue this tradition. It's only with your help that the Club will grow and be the kind of group you want to join.

The Board has taken our stewardship of the Club's assets very seriously this past year with the loss of the Bradley Center revenue. We are looking at some other revenue producing events for the Club, or perhaps grant writing. Our Finance Committee will be providing us with a budget for the next fiscal year shortly, and we must take heed of wants versus needs. Our fiscal year ends June 30, and if you are interested in assisting the committee, or have suggestions for revenue, you are invited to do so. This is your club, and your help is welcomed.

We would like to provide the club with a field trip to Mineral Point this month if arrangements can be made. Please let me know if you are interested in this one-day adventure. Kathy McLaughlin is chairing the trip and we hope to give you more information, as it is available.

See you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith

2005–06

Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Slate of Candidates – Milwaukee

- President: Julie Smith
- Vice President: Brian Witt
- Secretary: Richard Stover
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Kathy Donovan
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Karen Nielson
- Parliamentarian: Ed Mikush
- Parliamentarian: Josh Walton
- Membership Chair: Tom Smith
- Trustee: Pat Fitzgibbons
- Trustee: Richard Pfeiffer
- Treasurer: Vince Agnew

Julie Smith

I accepted the nomination for a second and last term as president hoping you have enjoyed this past exciting and invigorating year. This past year has been very busy, and I believe we have raised interest in the club throughout the area. We would like to continue to bring a sense of pride, generosity, and good works to our city with our many activities. We will continue to fund a scholarship for college students, sponsor a hurling team, provide the area with a mass, parade, post parade party, hold a Christmas party, a golf outing, a picnic beyond compare, and all the other wonderful events of the past year. We now have a new logo to reflect our non-profit status, new membership forms, badges, and pins. Let's continue our forward march to making this club the place to be for a long time to come.

Brian Witt

I am a past President of the Shamrock Club, served as vice president and trustee. I have edited Emerald Reflections since 1999, and set up the Shamrock Club website with Gail Coss. I also edit a weekly email newsletter under the Shamrock Club's name. I hope to be able to continue the leadership gains made in the past years.

Richard Stover

Through my membership in the Sham-rock Club of Wisconsin I have been very fortunate to meet, work with and develop many friends, as well as experience many memorable moments. Events and activities I have been honored to be allowed to participate in: Member of the Shamrock Club and Color Guard Pipes and Drums,; Shamrock Club Trustee; Chairman, Shamrock Club Golf Outing, volunteer worker on numerous event. It has been an Honor and a Privilege to have been able to serve the members of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and I look forward to continuing to work and serve You!

Kathy Donovan

Helped to run the Shamrock Club picnic last two years.
Helped to run the Christmas Party 2004. Member of Emerald Society.

Karen Nielson

Hi, my name is Karen Nielson, and I am running for the position of Sergeant-At-Arms. I am honored to be nominated for an office in the Shamrock Club. I am a newer member of the club, as this will be my third year. I have been a member of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums these three years, and have had a great time representing our club. This year I was elected to the office of Secretary of the SCCGPD, and have enjoyed the task. I hope that this nomination for Sergeant-at-Arms is only the beginning of the time and dedication I can give to the Shamrock Club in the future. Thank You.

Ed Mikush

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club since 1979 – I have always been an active participant in club events. I would like to become the Parliamentarian and offer the following experience: 16 years as Trustee and audit commiteeman for local 1114 United /Steel Workers; three years as Club trustee and two years as parliamentarian. I have also served on the audit committee and as a member of the by-laws committee several times.

Josh Walton

I first joined the Shamrock Club in the early 1970s. During my early years of membership I volunteered to work for the St. Patrick Day parade and the annual picnic. In 1980 I participated in the “Puck Fair” presentation at the Holiday Folk Fair starring as “Brendan” who had just returned home from the sea.

Most recently I have been a three year volunteer at the Bradley Center.

I have been a Irish Fest volunteer since it's inception and have been an entertainment driver for the last 23 years.

I have been active for the Knights of Columbus Leo J. Brust Council, having served in many offices including that of Grand Knight. I headed the council's bingo program and chaired many committees and events such as the Casino Night, Children's Christmas Party and Corporate Communion Breakfast. I also was President of the Council's Foundation which through it's efforts provided four year high school scholarships to deserving students. Other charities supported have included the Jesuit Nativity School.

In addition I am a past president of the St. Joseph's Benevolent Society.

I am honored to have been nominated for this position and would appreciate your support in what I wish to be many years of service the the Shamrock Club.

Tom Smith

This will be the 5th consecutive year I've run for membership chair. It's always a privilege to be involved with the Shamrock Club. We are long-time members and continue to stay active in the community. I am a native Milwaukeean and am currently a trustee in the Teamsters Retirees, the Finance Officer for my Legion Post, and a board member for the Emerald Society. We also are seen around the area running raffles for the Shamrock Club and the ICHC. I appreciate your support.

Pat Fitzgibbons

I am certainly a novice in the organization by comparison to many of our members, and yet, I feel it is important to continue the Shamrock Club tradition of having fun while working for the community. The Shamrock Club's goals of promoting Irish culture and giving to those in need are goals that I share, and if elected I will continue the tradition.

Richard Pfeiffer

Director of the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums since 2003.

Vince Agnew

I went to high school at Loyola Willmette in the Chicago area, and then spent a trimester at Notre Dame. Thereupon I went

to work at our family business, Deleiden's, a religious supply store in the Chicago area. After twenty-five years there, I closed down the business, after a 125 year run. I went to work at Jewel Osco in Chicago ten years ago, and then moved to Milwaukee nine years ago. I joined the Shamrock Club last August, and joined the Color Guard Pipes and Drums six months ago. I have been a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians for the past two years. I am proud of the chance to serve as the Shamrock Club treasurer.

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Installation Dinner

Thursday July 7, 2005

Alioto's (Mayfair Rd. and Burleigh St.)

Cocktails 6:00 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Swearing in of Officers 8:00 pm

Cost: \$20 Per person Cash Bar

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Thank You

On behalf of myself, Bridget, and the entire Hughes family, we wish to thank everyone in the Shamrock Club for their thoughts and prayers after the recent death of my father, Joseph G. Hughes.

– Joe Hughes

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News of Young Members

The following Marines from Fox Company 2 have safely come home to their families. They are Richard O'Leary Brown, nephew of parade director Mike O'Leary, and Jason Haas, nephew of Kristine Pluskota. Richard was award the Purple Heart. Jason received his acceptance letter to Marquette University while in Iraq. They both came home in mid April.

Congratulations to Erin Stephens for earning two Bachelor of Arts Degrees at UW Madison.

Erin Canon (Kinsella Academy of Irish Dance) won first place in Preliminary Championships at the West Virginia Feis held on April 2nd.

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Traveling to Ireland?

Aire Fares through the end of May for travel to Ireland from Chicago to Dublin or Shannon currently \$228 one way, minus fees and taxes on Aer Lingus.

The Euro has been averaging about \$1.33 in currency exchange rates in recent months.

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Piping Concert at ICHC

On Thursday, June 9, 2005, at 7:30 p.m. the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums will present their Seventh Annual Piping Concert at The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center located at 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue. We are proud to acknowledge that The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin is the original sponsor of the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums.

Those who attended last year's concert will remember what an amazing experience it was. The complete stage area was filled with pipers and drummers – the sound was totally thrilling. This year we will strive to make our concert an evening that will thrill your senses as you watch a stage overflowing with pipers and drummers playing tunes prepared just for you. The Caledonia Dancers have graciously accepted our invitation to dance for you also. Tickets will be available at the door for \$8.

Our teaching faculty includes: Ken Eller, Jake Watson, Ron (Ringo) Bowen and Doug MacRae; and, we are welcoming a new instructor this year, Ann Grey. We are pleased to welcome back our innovative drumming instructor, John Fisher. Our instructors are all well versed in teaching the great highland pipes and Scottish drumming, and all hail from Canada. The instructors will perform various tunes for your

listening pleasure, and entertain you with their own inimitable styles.

Alverno College again is the location for the school, and it will be in session from June 5 – 10, 2005. The school has gained a very respected reputation in the piping and drumming community, thanks to our superb faculty. Enrollment is limited to 60 piping students and 10 drumming students since this allows for individualized study and one-on-one teacher/student interaction. The students age ranged from 10 to 76 – with talents ranging from beginner to Grade 2 pipers.

For additional information on the School you may contact the Director, Tom Cobb at (414) 422-9235 or e-mail him at .

For more information about the piping concert you may contact the ICHC at (414) 345-8800 or on the web at .

For more information on the School, the instructors and curriculum, please visit our website at .

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Color Guard News and Notes

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums 2005 Parade and Event Season and the year long celebration of the Unit's "25th Anniversary" has now begun!

As is the tradition of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums, the Unit kicked-off the New Season performing at the St. Patrick's Day Mass held at St. Patrick's Church on Saturday, March 12, 2005. Following the Mass and in spite of 26 degree weather, the group proudly led the St. Patrick's Parade through downtown Milwaukee. Returning to its rightful position as the lead Unit in the Parade, after several years of being regulated to less than a favorable position, the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums represented the members of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin with "Pride & Honor"! Unless you have carried a 6 foot long metal flag pole or tried to play pipes and drums in "below freezing" temperatures you cannot imagine how difficult this is and we all owe a sincere congratulations to the members of your Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums for an unbelievable job well done! Following the parade the Unit was proud to put on a truly riveting performance at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center during the Post Parade festivities which not only brought loud and enthusiastic applause but the final musical performance of "A Nation Once Again" saw the

audience rise to their feet and sing along ... if you missed this, you missed a very moving and wonderful moment.

On Sunday, March 13, the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin made its 13th consecutive appearance in the Chicago Southside Irish St. Patrick's Parade and once again distinguished itself with a superb performance; it didn't hurt that the weather cooperated with temperatures in the mid-40s with sunshine and once again the trip to Gaelic Park for food, music, refreshments and fun capped-off a great day. Please remember for 2006, there is always room available on the bus for this trip to Chicago and it is a trip worth taking. On Saturday, March 19 the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums once again performed in the New Dublin St. Patrick's Parade and despite the cold and snow put on a remarkable performance; it should be noted that your Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums were not one of the many musical groups who cancelled out of the parade and indeed, they were the only Color Guard, Pipes and Drums Unit that did perform. The end of our March Parade and Event schedule concluded on Sunday, March 27 with the Unit's traditional participation in the Easter Rising Mass held at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, an event which, if you have not attended, you need to put on your calendar for 2006 ... it is truly inspirational.

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin "Color Guard, Pipes and Drums 25th Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance" to be held on April 23, 2005, at Derry's Irish Pub was next-up on the Unit's schedule as we went to press. Besides being the most visible part of the Shamrock Club throughout the State and through the entire year, the Unit is hopeful that many, many people came and enjoyed an evening of great food, great live entertainment and a raffle that included tickets to Irish Fest, Summerfest, the Milwaukee Brewers, Bucks, Admirals; autographed football from the Green Bay Packers and countless other gifts and gift certificates to numerous restaurants throughout the Milwaukee area; hopefully, in the next edition of Emerald Reflections we will be able to report on the success and support the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums receives from the members and those who cherish what the Unit has stood for and displayed over 25 years ... the Values, History, Heritage and Traditions of all that is Ireland!

If you would like to have the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums appear in a parade, special event or family occasion – or you would like to join the Unit as a banner carrier, color guard, piper or drummer, please contact:

Richard Pfeiffer, Director
Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums
Telephone: (414) 769-1250
E-mail: milwpiper@cs.com

– Richard Stover

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Milwaukee Hurling Club's Season Begins

The Milwaukee Hurling Club is getting ready for its upcoming season. Matches this year are being moved to Brown Deer Park for the 2005 season. The season starts May 15, with officials from many Irish organizations, as well as civic leaders, onhand to toss out the ceremonial first ball. Opening ceremonies are at noon.

NOTES:

- Youth league matches will take place at 10:00 a.m. prior to the regularly scheduled matches.
- Game times are 11:00, 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30 with Round Robins starting after the last game.
- If games are unable to be played due to rain the Round Robin Socials will be held as scheduled to accommodate sponsor preparations. All rained out matches will be considered draws.

Practices are being held at Riverside Park on Locust and Oakland on Wednesday evenings from 6 to dark, and at Brown Deer Park.

A draft of players was held earlier this year, so teams are newly staffed.

The Shamrock Club Griffins lost the finals last year to the Milwaukee Ale House. In addition to sponsoring a team, the Shamrock Club also sponsors the score board. The Shamrock Club will again be posting the MHC standings each month.

RTE News Items

Little prospect of housing market crash - AIB

House price inflation is predicted to moderate further and by the end of the year could be down to 5% or below, a new report on the outlook for the Irish housing market from AIB Global Treasury says. The report says that prices may rise by less than 3% in 2006.

‘With the threat of a price blowout diminishing, continuing low interest rates and a robust labour market, AIB see little risk of a market crash and continue to believe that the housing market will achieve a soft landing,’ the report states. AIB says that output is likely to remain relatively strong in the near term and completions could again reach some 75,000 this year. It points out that 30% of current output may be accounted for by second homes.

‘The demand for second homes has been, and should continue to be, supported by the increased wealth in the country,’ comments John Beggs, AIB Global Treasury’s Chief Economist. He adds that SSIA monies should also provide continued support to the second home markets in 2006 and 2007.

However, he feels that the sector may be nearing saturation levels and said the bank expects a lower level of demand for second homes in the medium term. ‘Any significant downturn in the sector could have consequences for the whole housing market if developments do not respond quickly to such an eventuality by reducing supply,’ he warned.

The continued robustness of the labour market is still underpinning the strong housing market, and the bank is expecting the interest rate outlook to remain relatively benign. ‘Given the strength of the market supports and despite the lingering risks, we remain of the view that there is little prospect of a housing market crash and that a soft landing is achievable,’ Mr Beggs said.

Metric speed limit awareness

A public awareness campaign was launched to prepare motorists for the change over to metric speed limits in late January. From Thursday 20 January, speed limits on Irish roads will change from mph to km/h. The speed limit on 91% of Ireland’s 96,000 km of roads will decrease. The main

change will be the lowering of the speed limit on regional and local roads to 80 km/h which equates to 50 mph. Over 58,000 speed limit signs will be erected by local authorities in the run-up to the changeover. The public awareness campaign will involve TV, national and local radio, national and local and fee sheet press, billboard advertising and a website, .

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St. Patrick's Help Fund

St. Patrick's Help Fund is in desperate need of non-perishable foods. Please place in container at each meeting. However, donations can be brought to the ICHC any time during the week. Questions? Call Katy Voss (414) 352-6479.

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New Members

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee – Kelly and Patrick Barry; Dr. Sheila Bloomquist; Jan Bourke; Charlotte Brady; Brown Family (Terence, Jaclyn, Anneliese, Briget, Eoghan, Joan, Richard); Jen Davis; Maureen Hayes; Karen Hertz; Chad and Sarah Johnson; Joseph Love; Victor and Landi Martinez; Christine Murphy; Lew Nomikas; Nona Seaver; Mr. Queer Scout; Jason Stasiowski; Dan Williams.

Membership Report Milwaukee Chapter:

- Feb.: 38 memberships up for renewal, 36 paid, 2 dropped for nonpayment.
- Mar.: 94 memberships up for renewal, 50 paid, 44 due.
- April.: 56 memberships up for renewal, 2 paid, 54 due.

– **Tom Smith**

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